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DATE: June 2, 2003

TO: Examiner Jose A. Fortuna

FROM: Kevin R. Lyn

In re: Anders Leandersson

Confirmation No.: 2016

Appl. No.: 09/656,563

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: September 7, 2000

Examiner: Fortuna, José A.

For: A PAPERMAKING DEVICE FOR PRODUCING A MULTILAYER LINER
AND ASSOCIATED METHODS

Please see the attached Amendment After Final (4 pages) in reference to the above-identified
patent application.

NO. OF PAGES:
(Including cover page)

4

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per Examiner's request*

REQUESTED BY: Kevin R. Lyn

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OFFICIALAttorney's Docket No. 041013/203676PATENT**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 - EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1731****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Anders Leandersson Confirmation No.: 2016
Appl. No.: 09/656,563 Group Art Unit: 1731
Filed: September 7, 2000 Examiner: Fortuna, José A.
For: A PAPERMAKING DEVICE FOR PRODUCING A MULTILAYER LINER
AND ASSOCIATED METHODS

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of March 14, 2003. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

The Applicant would initially like to acknowledge with appreciation the telephone interview granted to the undersigned by Examiner Fortuna on May 30, 2003. In light of the Office Action of March 14, 2003 and the interview, reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as presented are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks that follow. Claims 1-27 are currently pending and it is believed that these claims define patentable subject matter over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

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Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-27 were rejected in the Office Action as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,792,320 to Kaasalainen *et al.* As discussed in the interview, the Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Kaasalainen '320 reference discloses a method and device for removing water from a paper or board web by pressing. Fig. 1 of the Kaasalainen '320 reference shows a twin-wire gap former, wherein the formed web W is transported on the lower wire 10 through a pre-press-zone PN between the lower wire 10 and an upper transfer belt 20. The web W is then transferred from the upper transfer belt 20 to a lower press felt 25 and then transported through a first extended-nip zone NP₁ between the lower felt 25 and an upper felt 30. The web W is then transferred to an upper felt 40 and transported a second extended-nip zone NP₂ between the upper felt 40 and a lower smooth-faced second transfer belt 35, whereafter the web W is transferred from the lower transfer belt 35 to a drying wire 60.

In contrast, Claims 1, 18, 24, and 26 of the present invention, upon which Claims 2-17, 19-23, 25, and 27 depend either directly or indirectly, particularly claim that a fiber web, having a top layer and a base layer, is conveyed through at least one double-felted press nip prior to being conveyed through the last nip, wherein the last nip has a transfer belt passing therethrough and is configured such that the smooth surface of the transfer belt contacts the top layer of the fiber web through the last nip. Contact between the top layer of the fiber web and the smooth surface of the transfer belt through the last nip serves to enhance the printability of the top layer, as described on Page 6, lines 16-18 of the Specification.

Fig. 1 of the Kaasalainen '320 shows that the single-layer web is directed through the last nip NP₂ with the bottom surface of the web in contact with the transfer belt 35, while the top surface of the web is in contact with the upper press felt 40. Thus, contrary to the assertions in the Office Action, reference does not teach suggest, or provide motivation for a double-felted press nip preceding a last nip in which the top layer of the fiber web engages the smooth surface of a transfer belt passing through the last nip. As such, the Applicant submits that Claims 1, 18, 24, and 26 define patentable subject matter over the Kaasalainen '320 reference.

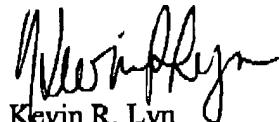
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In summary, the Kaasalainen '320 patent does not teach, suggest, or provide motivation for the embodiments of the present invention as now claimed. Accordingly, in view of these differences between the Applicant's invention and the Kaasalainen '320 patent, it is submitted that embodiments of the present invention, as defined by Claims 1-27, are patentable over the Kaasalainen '320 patent cited in the Office Action. As such, Claims 1-27 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that all claims now pending are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

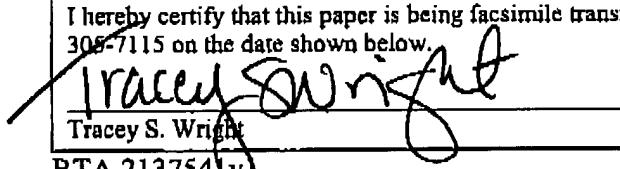
Respectfully submitted,


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